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MAINE FARMER

Our Home, our Country, and our Brother Man

BLACK KNOT.

Any thing that will tend to throw light upon the cause of the vexatious black knot on plum and cherry trees, is valuable to cultivators.

A writer in the Boston Cultivator says, that a plum tree growing near his kitchen door, which had always been healthy and productive, became diseased with black knot, in consequence of a change in the course of the sink drain which brought the slops of all kinds around its roots. We have known plum trees saved from the ravages of the curculio in consequence of having the sink drain passing by their roots. Perhaps in the instance referred to the supply was too abundant, and perhaps the quality of the wash was deleterious.

The Editor of the Berkshire Cultivator in commenting on the fact mentioned in the Boston Cultivator, says it reminded him of a conversation he had with a very successful cultivator of the plum, who stated that whenever he has slit the bark of the trunk and main branches of his trees thoroughly in the early spring, he has had no trouble with black-knots, but if he neglects this precaution the excrescences appear. He tells us, further, that by passing his knife through an excrescence when it first shows itself, he stops its progress at once. Does this throw any light? Was the knot in the Boston Cultivator's plum tree, caused by his high manuring?—for soap suds is a strong, and we suppose a most excellent manure—causing an exuberant flow of sap to the tree, to such an extent as to cause its sap vessels to burst, when free longitudinal incisions would have given relief and saved the tree. The bark of the cherry and plum are felt-like, cross-fibered, and seem to yield with difficulty. If there is a remedy for the black-knot in slitting, or a cause for it in high stimulus, applied in a form to be immediately and powerfully active, the most formidable obstacle in the way of raising plums, can be removed with comparative ease.

To the hints given by the Editor of the Cultivator, we would add that the disease in question is comparatively recent date. Forty years ago, very little, if anything, of the kind was known. It cannot be wholly owing to over-stimulation of the tree by high manuring, for we sometimes see it on wild cherries in the woods and fields. If, however, it can be relieved by so simple a remedy as slitting or cutting the bark, it should be generally known, and the remedy applied generally.

A NEW MOVE FOR THE LADIES.

We have received a circular which proclaims a new movement among the Ladies. Perhaps it is a phase of the "woman's rights" system, at any rate it is one they have a right to inaugurate and establish if they please. The circular announces that there will be a "Ladies' National Equestrian Convention" held on Wednesday, Sept. 8th, 1858, at the Union Church, Long Island. The convention will be under the management of Thomas Thorpe and Philip Levy.

There are some magnificent premiums to be awarded to the best riders. The first is a grand action piano worth \$500, from the manufactory of our old friend, Horace Waters. The second is a massive silver pitcher and pair of goblets worth \$300, and the third is a splendid gold enamelled lady's watch set with diamonds, and worth over \$200, from the manufactory of Ball, Black & Co.

Here is a great chance for the ladies to compete in the healthy and graceful practice of horseback exercise. The managers of the convention say that the chief design of the Management of the Ladies' Convention, is to promote a pure and healthy admiration for the art of Equestrianism, and, consequently, the Premiums now offered for competition, for Lady Amateur Equestrians, have been thrown open to competitors from every part of the Union without fee or expense.

In European countries it has been the policy of the government to encourage equestrian pastimes; and thus festivals, of a nature similar to that now proposed by the present Ladies' Convention, are matters of constant occurrence, not only in large cities, but in almost every commune or hamlet in all sections of the continent. Victoria, queen of England—whose chief amusement is equestrianism—and the fair Empress of the French, have each recently contributed largely to the advancement of equestrianism, which, from this royal patronage, has become a most popular and fashionable exercise—the last relic of chivalry—which conduces as well to health as to the personal elegance of those cultivating it.

The following general regulations give a brief view of the plan proposed:

The Management most cordially invite the cooperation of the fair sex in every part of the country, and solicitedly narrate the general features of the plan proposed to be adopted.

1. Every Lady appearing in the Convention, either in the cavalcade or in competition for the premiums, will be presented with the medalion badge, intended to commemorate the occasion, free of cost, charge, or expense. This badge gives, likewise, free admission to the Course.

2. All ladies of professional reputation, or such as have been connected with any circus, or other equestrian establishment, will be rigidly excluded from competition for the premiums.

3. Ladies, non-residents of New York, or its environs, upon their arrival in the city, will send their addresses to the Management, who will assign to them means of conveyance to the ground, an attending groom, and, if required, a superior horse, to be selected from a well-known stable of excellent animals.

4. The Management pledge themselves that no person, male or female, whose character is in the least suspicious, shall be suffered to participate, directly or indirectly, in the Equestrian Festival, which is designed to be a purely national competition for ladies, in every sense of the word.

THE NATIONAL HORSE FAIR.

It was a lucky thought of Geo. M. Atwater, and other citizens of Springfield, to establish an Annual National Show of Horses. The idea "took," as the saying is, and the National Horse Fair has become one of the institutions of the age—a fixed fact. The third annual Show will take place in Springfield, Mass., on the 14th of next month, and continue through the three following days.

From the reports which we hear from that quarter, we have no doubt that the arrangements and the Show itself will equal any of the preceding ones, and should the weather be good there will be a rich display of horses and an immense concourse of people.

As many of our readers intend to visit Springfield during the Show, and some of them will carry their horses with them, it will be of service to look over the following list of Railroads that have consented to liberal arrangements in the matter of transportation.

The roads that will convey horses and their grooms, both ways, free, are as follows:

Western—Worcester to Albany; Hartford and New Haven—Springfield to New Haven; Connecticut River—Vermont Line to Springfield.

The roads that will convey horses and grooms free one way, or at half price, are as follows:

New York Central—Albany and Buffalo; New York and New Haven; Boston and Maine—Portland and Boston; Boston and Worcester; Boston, Concord and Montreal; New London, Palmer and Willimantic; Stony Brook; Lawrence and Lowell; Worcester and Nashua; Concord, Manchester and Lawrence; Norwich and Worcester; Hartford, Providence and Fitchburg; Harlem; New Haven and Northampton; Vermont Central; Vermont Valley; Rutland and Burlington; Connecticut and Passumpsic; Vermont and Canada; Vermont and Massachusetts; Boston, Lowell and Nashua; Old Colony; Champlain and St. Lawrence; Ogdensburg; Watertown and Rome; Potsdam and Watertown; Grand Trunk from Portland (Me.) to Stratford, C. W.; Michigan Southern; Cleveland and Toledo; Canal from Northampton to New Haven.

There has been a variation and extension of the premium list since last year. Among the new premiums offered is a State Prize Banner. This is a banner costing \$200, which will be given to the State Agricultural Society (other than the Massachusetts,) of that State which shall, by its citizens, enter for exhibition the largest number of valuable horses.

There is but one reason why Maine will not compete for the Banner, and that is this—the Fair at Springfield being only one week previous to our State Agricultural Society's Show, it will be difficult to send many horses there and get them home in season to attend our own Show. We hope, however, that Maine will be well represented upon the ground.

Those who intend to make entries should address the Secretary, J. N. Bagg, Esq., before the 10th of September.

PICKLES.

"A subscriber" requires the best mode to pickle cucumbers. The usual mode of pickling cucumbers is to gather them quite small, and pack them down with common salt in a keg or barrel: first a layer of cucumbers and then a layer of salt. The moisture of the cucumber dissolves the salt, and if they be kept under the brine thus formed, it will preserve them any length of time. When needed for use, take them out and put them into clear, fresh water, to soak a day or two, and when freshened, put them into strong vinegar.

If a lump of alum be put into the water in which they are soaked, it is thought the green color will be heightened. Some warm the vinegar before they put the pickles in, but this is not essential.

A pickle is some soft substance which will enable you to eat vinegar, by absorption of it. Some people, after washing the cucumbers, put them immediately into warm vinegar, adding, also, cloves, and sometimes, allspice.

If you wish to make nice bottled pickles—take cider vinegar and filter it through charcoal. This will make it more clear or colorless. Then fill a wide-mouth bottle with it, and pack in your cucumbers, small onions, or whatever else you may wish to pickle, and seal up carefully.

EXCELLENT SHEEP.

Among the breeds of sheep that are found to be capital for mutton, and therefore profitable for our farmers to raise, are Oxford Down. These sheep are a cross between the pure South Down and the Cotswold breeds; the object having been to combine the fine mutton qualities of the former with the size of carcass and fleece of the latter. They are entirely distinct from the Oxfordshire sheep. Messrs. D. Sears, Jr., and R. S. Fay, are believed to be the only importers of these sheep, which they selected while in England a few years ago, as being those best adapted for the neighborhood of market towns.

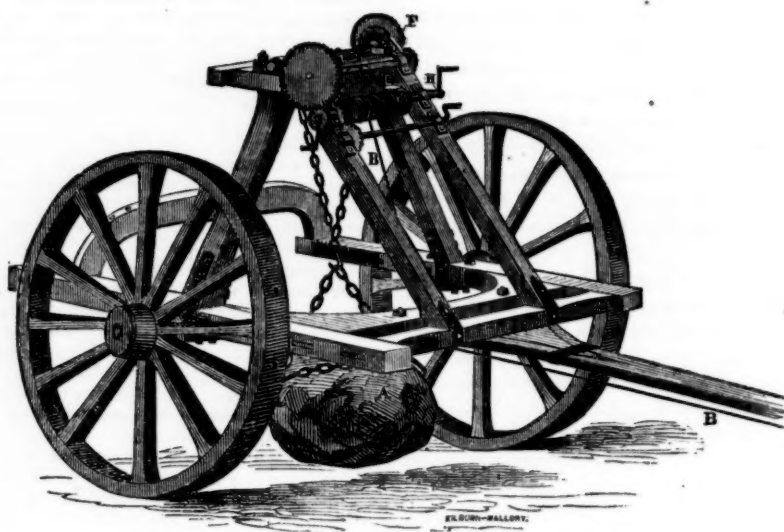
C. B. Abbott, of Glenburn, whose post-office address is Bangor, Me., will sell a few ram lambs, three-fourths blood, of this breed, at prices varying from \$10 to \$15, according to quality; and if desired, would deliver them at the R. R. Depot, at Bangor, properly boxed for transportation.

SHOWS AND FAIR. To avoid holding their show and fair on the same days with the South Kennebec Society, the Kennebec Society have made a slight change in their previous arrangements, and their Show and Fair will be held at Readfield, Oct. 13, 14 and 15.

The Waldo Co. Ag. Society will hold their Show and Fair at Belfast, Oct. 13 and 14.

ROOT PRUNING. The root pruning of trees as a means of promoting fruitfulness does not seem to meet with much favor. As a system for general culture it will not, of course, be popular, neither is it necessary. Occasionally, however, it may be practiced with decided advantage. Where fruit trees are growing in very rich soil, such as in small, highly cultivated gardens, and produce annually an immense crop of branches, but no fruit, cutting off a few of the strongest roots, is at once the most simple and certain method of checking growth. If this is carefully performed early this month, fruiting buds may be formed before the completion of growth.

[W. Saunders.]



Boles' Patent Stone-Digger and Wall Layer.

PATENT STONE DIGGER.

We present above the representation of a new and very useful machine for farmers. The following description will make its construction and manner of operation understood:—

A, is the rock just raised above ground. F, the windlass. G, the connecting wheels between the windlass and crank-shaft H. I, the crank-shaft, with drum, secured to or detached from the shaft at pleasure. B, B, the hoisting-ropes, wound on the drum or crank-shaft H, and runs under a roller and through a sheave near the end of the tongue, to which a horse is attached to hoist the rock. The small crank and shaft under crank-shaft H, is to wind up the rope when the rock is hoisted high enough and the horse is detached. The proprietors of this machine and patent right, claim, that it is one of the greatest labor-saving improvements of the age. It will take rocks out of the earth of five tons weight or less, without digging to relieve them, with great ease and rapidity, and move them into the line for a wall, if desired, and place smaller ones on top until the wall is five feet high. The machine may be operated by men or by horse-power. The united power of two men will lift a rock of five tons weight from the ground in ten minutes, or it may be done by a horse in one minute.

The Editor of the New England Farmer, who witnessed it in operation, gives the following account of its performance:—

"I was invited to the farm of Thomas Ellis, Esq., of Rochester, to see this machine in operation, and a simple account of what I saw it do, will better evidence its value than any glowing description or high-sounding phrases. It is necessary, however, first to state that the rocks do not require any digging about, unless they are entirely below the surface, and then only enough to make room to apply the hooks by which they are raised; a slight indentation is made into two faces of the rock with a common drill, into which the points of the rocks are placed. The machine is a simple, stout framework, upon which is a little cast-iron gearing, and the whole mounted upon strong wheels six feet in diameter. Two men and a boy with a pair of oxen and a horse, or two pairs of oxen, if the rocks are very large, are all that is required to work it, and there is no hard lifting, no creaking of wheels, no prying with bars or levers, no vexation or swearing necessary in the most effectual operation of the machine.

At 9 o'clock, it was backed over a rock showing only 3 inches out of the ground, and in five minutes the rock was upon the surface, in the cheerful sunlight, whose warm rays it had probably never felt so plainly before. It was then taken to another, the hooks applied, and in six minutes it was upon the surface. The weight of this rock was computed to be five tons. Passing to another, which upon raising, was found to be half out of the ground, it was laid up high and dry in four minutes! and this was all the time occupied in applying the hooks, taking out the rock, and dropping it loose upon the top of the ground! The next one occupied ten minutes. This I measured, rule in hand, and allowing 12 cubic feet for a ton, which I think was enough for the kind of rock lifted, I found it to weigh six tons! In one hour, 25 rocks were lifted out, varying in weight from 300 lbs. to six tons! and at the end of two hours, 45 rocks had been exhumed from their natal beds, to the glorious sunlight, which, as a great favor, shone out with resplendent brightness on this occasion.

I am clearly of the opinion that I have never seen any machine whose use would prove more profitable on rocky farms than this. I think I am competent to judge in this matter, as I spent much of my youth, and several years more recently, in reclaiming lands from the possession of rocks to the use of the plow and hoe and cultivated crops. In accomplishing the work I have described, there was no hard labor for the men or for the team; every thing was quickly and quietly done, and apparently, without unusual effort on the part of any engaged in it. The only strain was occasionally upon a noble pair of oxen in removing some of the largest rocks a few feet from their old home; but they did it with an energy and precision that gave evidence of excellent training. Their owner held a "good stick" in his hand, but guided them mainly with his cheerful words.

At the expiration of two hours, the operators selected the largest rocks they had raised, and laid them in a line for a wall, and when two or three were in place, others, smaller, were laid upon them with rapidity and ease, the men having scarcely any part in the matter beyond hitching and unhitching the hooks.

This is the machine to precede the mower and horse-rake, on great numbers of our rocky New England farms, and facilitate their culture and increase their crops and profits. Those who use it, dig deep trenches where it is intended to lay a wall, trenching sometimes four or five feet deep, or as long as the digging is easy; then fill the trenches with the lesser rocks and small stones and use the earth thrown out to fill the holes left in the field. The machine weighs 2500 lbs., but standing upon wheels so large, is easily transported over the roads or fields. It is compact, wonderfully strong, has nothing liable to get out of repair or break, but a chain, and costs \$275.

INDIAN CORN.

SEVILLE's soft, luxurious climate yields the orange and the lime, And the cool refreshing shade By the clustering branches made, Seems to hold the perfumed air As a willing captive there.

Ceylon, Isle of spice and balm, Boasts her groves of stately palm; Where the lingering ambrosia rests, As they loved that land the best; Where the birds amid the bowers Are like gorgeous, winged flowers.

In thy vale, fair, sunny France, Peasants love thy vintage dance; Where the vine their clusters yield, Songs are heard from every field; All the land in festal dress, Overflows with happiness.

But of all the precious stores Nature's bounteous hand outpours Over each hill, and vale, and plain, Flower, fruit or waving grain, Dearest to the Northern born Stands the graceful Indian Corn.

When it springs, the verdant leaf, Bursts the seed's enclosing sheath, Or, in summer's glowing light, The feathered land greets the sight, Grace and beauty still adorn Every change of Indian Corn.

When th' autumn's gorgeous dyes Reflect the hues of sunset skies, Or the glowing harvest plain, There the ears of clustered grain, In the yellow sheaf enrolled, Seem like topsas let in gold.

SWAMP MUCK.

One of the mistakes made in the use of muck, is that of incorporating it with the soil while yet fresh from the swamp, or with a too short seasoning. It might suffice as a caution against committing this blunder if we were to point out the grounds, in reason, science and common sense, which indicate, more or less plainly, that injurious results are likely to happen when muck is spread and plowed in a wet and fresh condition. But one fact may make a deeper impression and be more convincing than a score of demonstrations on speculative or scientific grounds.

In the pages of the recently issued Patent Office Report we find a statement based on some facts or observation as to this matter, the substance of which we herewith submit, with the hope that its more extensive dissemination may prevent similar mistakes in others and in future.

The article from which we derive the information in the following abstract was written by Hon. Simon Brown, of Concord, Mass. He says that in extensive low muck swamps the quality of the material is often widely different, as may frequently be seen when these swamps, are drained and long ridges of muck are thrown up on the edges of the ditch. If thrown up in autumn or winter, there will be a rank growth of weeds or grasses on some portions of this ridge in the following summer, indicating great fertility in the muck below, while other portions will be entirely bare, or at best but partially covered with stunted fungi or moss. These barren spots are sometimes covered with a whitish-yellow substance, or with sulphate of iron. "Muck of this latter description, spread upon pasture or mowing lands, has been known to prevent the growth of grass for many years in succession; and when plowed and cultivated, aquatic grasses and plants spring up in profusion, and can only be eradicated by a most careful and expensive process of cultivation."

Cases have come under his observation in which the cost or trouble of cultivating a corn crop has been doubled by the introduction of these plants with this kind of muck, without being seasoned or composted. These plants are not finally subdued without much labor, and if allowed to go to seed, will establish a colony of intruders upon a farm which it will be exceedingly difficult to eject. The caution suggested by such facts is obvious, viz., that that farmers should exercise discrimination as to the quality of muck they use, and that none should be used until it has been seasoned by a winter's freezing and a summer's drying and sprouting of seeds, or by being composted after some seasoning.

It may, indeed, be laid down as a general rule, that to insure its full beneficial efficiency and safety, muck should always have been thrown out one or two years before being used either as a top-dressing for mowing lands, or for admixture with tilled soils, or for absorbing liquid manures, or for composting with fertilizing matter of any kind. Without exposure for such a length of time, and some working in the interim, muck cannot become sufficiently dry, or sufficiently pulverized to fit for any of the above purposes. The moisture with which it is saturated, being poisonous or unfavorable to cultivated crops, should be got rid of by exposure to rain and sun, in addition, by admixture with lime or ashes; and then it should be thoroughly and finely pulverized. [Country Gentleman.]

THE AMERICAN STAPLE. The Egg Crop. It is estimated that there are 103,000,000 laying fowls in the country, of which 50,000,000 lay one egg a day throughout the year. This would give the annual crop of 18,250,000,000 eggs, and these at eight cents a dozen, would be worth \$121,666,666! (Buffalo Express, Aug. 4.)

The seaboard crop of the United States, estimated at the cotton crop, according to the census of 1850, amounted to \$78,264,928. Estimated at the same point—that is, according to New York prices to-day—the egg crop of the United States would amount to \$259,011,066, or twice as much as the cotton, tobacco, rice, hay, hemp and sugar crops of the slave States put together. Adopting the estimate of the Buffalo print, the average of eggs consumed by each inhabitant of the United States each day is about two.

[New York Post.]

REMEDY FOR THE SCOURS. A correspondent of the Mark Lane Express, has used acorn flour with success. Whenever he found symptoms of scours or diarrhoea in any of his cattle, he ordered two good handfuls of acorn flour to be mixed in a bran mash and given warm immediately, continuing it once a day until the disease disappeared. It proved a never failing cure, in his own case and that of his neighbors.

ASHES AND THE POTATO ROT.

The rot appears to have been far less extensive in its ravages last year than it was the year before. Nevertheless, it made its appearance in some places and did little damage, especially to late-planted potatoes. I have always been satisfied that lime, ashes, or some other alkaline article would be found the best, if not the only remedy for this disease, and where it last year made its appearance on a plot of potatoes, I determined to test the truth or falsity of my belief, by reducing it at once to actual experiment. I accordingly took some ashes, and going into the potato piece, commenced applying it by lifting up the tops, and sprinkling a handful among the stalks of each hill.

I was particularly careful to insert it as nearly as practicable in the very centre of the plants, in order that the roots as well as the tops might, if necessary, be benefited by the application. In a few days the rot, on the rows ashed, was stopped, while two rows on one side, upon which no application was made, were completely destroyed. I can attribute the salvation of the crop to no other influence than that exerted by the ashes, and, to my mind, the experiment was conclusive.

Every one must feel rejoiced at the evident subsidence of this plague, which at one time threatened the entire annihilation of this valuable esculent; but should it return again to assail it, let every one be prepared to apply the remedy, and at once. There is some principle which produces the disease; and if this can be corrected, and its deleterious and fatal effects neutralized by an application so cheap and simple as wood ashes, it should certainly not be withheld. Millions of bushels of this root have been destroyed during the career of this perplexing disease. On many farms, every tuber was lost in 1852.

I never have out my potatoes nor applied fermentable manure to them since the disease first made its appearance, but although I have been more fortunate than my neighbors who have done both in direct opposition to my advice, I have not, by any means, enjoyed perfect immunity, and have been, to a considerable extent, a sufferer from its effects. Ashes are a valuable manure, imparting warmth and sweetness to the soil, and producing a vigorous action of the filaments of the roots of all vegetables to which they are applied. [Germantown Telegraph.]

SEASONABLE HINTS ON THE FIG.

Look well to the pigs and pens this month. Pigs need particular care and protection from the extreme heat of the season at this season to do well. See that they have shade, shelter, and clean, comfortable pens, for pigs, like bipeds, do best in comfortable quarters. Many build their hog-pens over a running stream, to avoid the nuisance of the ammonia which arises from the manure, and therefore annually suffer the loss of the fattening properties of their whole roye, corn and buckwheat crops, by permitting the voidings to run down the stream. Of course no farmer can ever prosper who permits the waste of so much valuable fertilizing matter as this, and when it can be prevented, as well as the health of his pigs, and the atmosphere of the neighborhood purified by simply feeding a few handfuls of charcoal to the pigs daily, it is a matter of great surprise that so simple a precaution as this should be neglected, and a most abominable nuisance kept up to the annoyance of the whole neighborhood. The strong odor of the hog-pens is frequently the first salute of the stranger in approaching an otherwise neat and tidy farmer's residence, whereas, the offensive effluvia might be altogether arrested and concentrated by keeping on hand a barrel of charcoal and feeding a few handfuls occasionally to the hogs, who will eat it more greedily than corn. Charcoal not only acts as a disinfectant, but also greatly promotes the health and growth of swine, and any farmer who undertakes to make one pig pen without using charcoal to promote the fattening of it, and particularly to feed it at killing time, purify and prevent the fetid odor which arises from the cleaning of the intestines, deserves to be made to feed and keep company with the grunters whom his stupid ignorance or laziness compels to live and die in filth. If ever any neighborhood is afflicted with the "hog cholera," put it down to the disgusting practice of herding them too closely together, and compelling them to live in the midst of their own offal. Wherever any regard is paid to the feeding of charcoal and other cleanly arrangements, pigs may be kept in the midst of large towns without any person apparently being the wiser of it. Thus much we have felt called upon to say in behalf of the unhappy porker herded in confined pens.

Shots may be made to obtain a fine growth during this and the coming month, if a little ground corn, rye and oats be mixed with their milk or slop, so that by the time the corn is ripe in the cornfields they will already have arrived at a hog's estate, and then, if they are only "crowded a little" with a mash of potatoes, pumpkins, turnips, and meal, they will have made good progress by the first of October or November, that at the end of the warm days of Indian summer, if the hogs be of the right breed, they will scarcely be able to eat half the ration of a lean hog, and will soon become so fat as to be unable to get up. Pork fattened and grown upon any other system will cost the owner twice as much for an inferior article. One reason why Western pork is, and always will be, inferior in quality to the "Jersey fatted," is because the Western farmers do not take sufficient pains in raising and fattening it.

[Jersey Farmer.]

A NEW HARNESS. The New Brunswick papers give an account of a new and peculiar harness which is attracting considerable attention. The ordinary saddle is dispensed with; also, the whip-pletree and breeching. The wagon is controlled by two friction rollers fastened at the end of the shaft bars. The shafts are held and controlled by two terrets at the hames. The horse can be detached from the carriage in a moment, by means of two spring hooks, arranged at the forward end of the trace, which is convenient at all times, and more especially in case a horse becomes frightened and runs away.

THE ART OF TAMING HORSES.

The London Illustrated Times is publishing a series of articles, written by Harcy, the horse-tamer, in elucidation of his theory. His method and principles are substantially those, which, a few weeks ago, we hinted they were most likely to be. He lays down three cardinal facts, in relation to the horse, on which he erects his theory. The first is that the horse is so constituted by nature, that he will not offer resistance to any demand made of him which he fully comprehends, if made in a way consistent with the laws of nature. In proof of this he refers to the want of reason in the horse, which prevents that animal from resisting the impositions constantly practiced upon him. The horse is so much stronger than man, that, if he possessed the logical faculties, and was able, therefore, to realize his advantages in a contest with man, he would not submit to be driven, or ridden, but would successfully demand to be left free to roam his favorite pastures. Happily for us, the horse has no reason; consequently no consciousness of imposition; and as a corollary no thought of disobedience, except impulsiveness, when the law of his nature is violated.

The second proposition is that the horse has no consciousness of his strength beyond his experience, and that, accordingly, he can be handled according to our will, without force. Every one acquainted with horses knows the truth of the first part of this proposition, and the latter part follows logically from it. The third proposition is that the horse will permit any object, however frightful in appearance, to come around over or on him, that does not inflict pain. When fear exists from imagination, and not from the infliction of pain, that fear can be removed by showing that there is no cause for the imaginary danger. A boy, who has been frightened by a false face, or any other object that he cannot comprehend at once, will lose all his terrors if he handles the false face, or approaches the supposed spectre. So a horse, when he has familiarized himself with a stump, a robe, or other objects of alarm, no longer starts, snorts, or trembles. If a horse becomes alarmed at any object on the road-side, coax him up to it, let him stand by it and touch it with his nose, and his fright will disappear.

These are the principles of Mr. Harcy's theory. They are founded on facts familiar to horsemen, and which have been made use of by thousands. The merit of Mr. Harcy consists not in the discovery of these facts, nor even in the acknowledgment of them as principles, but in the very successful manner in which he has put them into operation. Many men may understand an art theoretically, yet want the executive faculty to practice it skillfully. There are persons who have had to do with horses all their lives, without acquiring as much control over them as others who have just begun to manage them. Some people have what we have here called a magnetism in this matter. But this magnetism, we take it, is only a skillful executive faculty. Mr. Harcy evidently possesses this faculty in the highest perfection; and, without it, we suspect his theory would practically be of little use. We have the explanation why many persons, who have taken lessons of Mr. Harcy and his pupils, fall so far short of the performances of their teachers. After all, the great merit of Mr. Harcy's school is that it will entirely expel the old cruel methods of breaking, and introduce others more consistent with humanity to the horse. Harcy's system of breaking draught horses, and saddle horses generally, proceeds on the humane principle.

PRESERVING GRAPES.

Charles Campbell, of Aurora, Cayuga county, N. Y., communicates to the American Agriculturist, the following method of preserving grapes:

"When they are fully ripe, suspend the basket by a strap or cord passed around the neck, thereby giving liberty to both hands for picking; with one hand hold the cluster, and with the other remove it from the vine; remove from the clusters all unripe or decayed fruit, and deposit them in the basket until it is filled. (I use a market basket that will hold about a half bushel.) Carry the grapes thus gathered to the place for packing. I use boxes about two feet square by six inches deep in the clear, with covers made to shut tight. In packing, lay a newspaper on the bottom of the box, then a layer of grapes, then a paper and second layer of grapes, which, when closely packed fills the box; set in some dry place, with the cover off and let the box remain open for ten days, or until the sweating process is passed; then close the box and set it in the fruit-room, cellar, or garret, any place where they will not freeze, or which is not extremely damp.

"Grapes packed as above directed, will open at any time during the winter or spring following as fresh as when packed. The only secret or mystery is, that the moisture which spoils the fruit when packed in saw-dust and other absorbents, passes off during the ten days that the box remains open, instead of being absorbed, to ultimately mold and spoil them. So perfect has been my success that I have more confidence in the preservation of the grapes than any other fruit. I use shallow boxes for packing grapes, that the moisture may more readily escape, and that the first layer in the bottom may not be crushed by the weight above."

THE COTTON CROP IN 1858. In conversation last week with a gentleman who has very recently traveled over nearly the whole cotton growing section of United States, he expressed the opinion that if present prospects are verified, the crop will be beyond all precedent in quantity. The idea of a deficit of 400,000 bales in the South-west, resulting from high water, he considered altogether delusive, and maintained that he had been in no county of that section where present anticipations did not fix the quantity of cotton grown above what could be gathered. The cotton crop everywhere was more than abundant.

[Macon, Ga., Telegraph.]

GARDENING FOR LADIES. Make up your beds early in the morning; sow buttons on your husband's shirt; do not rake up any grievances; protect the young and tender branches of your family; plant a smile of good temper in your face, and carefully root out all angry feelings, and expect a good crop of happiness.

